



## **2004 Session Outlook**

### ***A report to the 2nd District taxpayers***

#### **State Representative Roger Bush**

Serving the citizens of: Carbonado, Eatonville, Frederickson, Graham, Orting, Rainier, Spanaway, Yelm, and the Mt. Rainier area

P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7824 • Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

### **2004 Session Goals and Priorities**

- ✓ **A budget with no tax increases.**
- ✓ **Create new jobs through tax reductions and cutting bureaucratic red tape.**
- ✓ **Affordable, accessible health care by controlling costs through insurance and liability reforms.**
- ✓ **Improve quality of life through better roads, tougher laws against crime and investing in our communities.**

### **Creating employment opportunities**

Although Washington lost nearly 160,000 jobs between July 1999 to November 2002, the good news is that our economy is slowly growing again. To foster this growth, we must create a climate that is conducive to attracting and retaining good paying jobs for Washington families. There are several ways to meet this goal during the 2004 legislative session:

- Renew and extend tax credits to preserve existing jobs and create new ones.
- Allow insurance carriers to offer industrial insurance to all employers, thus reducing skyrocketing workers' compensation costs that prevent job creation.



### **Budget: Maintain fiscal restraint**



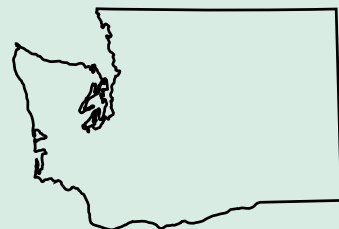
Last year, we dug the state out of a \$2.7 billion budget deficit without raising taxes, while still maintaining vital services. Now, as the economy is beginning to recover, the governor wants to begin spending your money again on new programs.

Our economy is still fragile. Our first order of business should be creating jobs and getting people back to work again. If we go on a spending spree, it will send the budget back into the red, setting up the state for future tax increases.

Let's not bust the budget now when we've made such progress! Let's be responsible by addressing only those emergent needs, being cautious and patient, and letting the economy blossom first before we increase spending programs.

### **A unified voice to preserve our military bases**

The military bases in Washington, including Fort Lewis, Madigan Army Medical Center and McChord Air Force Base pump nearly \$8 billion into the state's economy annually. It's important that when the Secretary of Defense nominates facilities for closure in May 2005, none of our bases are on this list. As the co-chair of the Joint Select Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs, I am working with local communities, civic groups, chambers of commerce and our congressional delegation to provide a unified voice for the support and enhancement of our military bases.



## Capital budget - Bringing local tax dollars home



As a member of the House Capital Budget Committee, I am working to appropriate funds for major construction projects across the state, including several within the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

### Local community centers

A top priority in the capital budget will be to secure funding for seven community centers proposed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, including centers in Puyallup/South Hill, Lakewood and Tacoma.

These community centers would provide a centralized location not only for children to learn and grow, but where community service organizations could offer services in cross-generational facilities to meet the needs of our local unserved suburban and rural communities.

This would be a public-private partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs raising most of the \$60 million needed for construction. I am proposing an initial investment in the capital budget of \$1 million this year and \$3 million each year thereafter for a total of \$18 million.

### Northwest Trek expansion

This year, I have also proposed appropriating \$500,000 from the capital budget to help fund the purchase of 100 acres of land located next to Northwest Trek. The property was originally slated for intensive residential development, which would have severely threatened the pristine nature of the Trek experience. Metro Parks and Northwest Trek have committed \$400,000 to the \$1.2 million purchase price and will conduct private fund raising to cover the balance.

### Orting Evacuation Bridge and Rails-to-Trails

I am hopeful that we can move to Phase Two of the Orting evacuation bridge project by obtaining right-of-way funding. This would build upon last year's success when I helped to secure \$250,000 to conduct a feasibility study for the bridge. The project would also be a natural tie-in to the Rails-to-Trails project which joins the upper plateau through South Cascadia, Bonney Lake and Lake Tapps.

## Transportation projects moving ahead

### Meridian Street widening

I am pleased to report that the Department of Transportation has awarded a \$6.9 million contract to Scarsella Brothers, Inc., Seattle, to widen State Route 161 (Meridian Street). This project is in two phases. The first is from 234<sup>th</sup> Street East to 176<sup>th</sup> Street East. That work begins soon. The remaining section up to 204<sup>th</sup> Street East near Graham will be underway next year.



This is truly promises made, promises kept. We worked hard to bring this project to reality. Finally, our local taxpayers will be seeing their money at work solving a major traffic gridlock problem that has plagued our area for too long.

### 2004 highway funding priorities

I am continuing to educate other lawmakers in the Legislature of the need for the **Yelm Bypass** and the **Cross-Base Highway** between Frederickson and Lakewood. As we make progress on other local road projects, our focus must also shift toward State Route 162, the **Orting Highway**, which needs improvements.



***Rep. Roger Bush stands beside traffic backed up on Meridian Street. This will soon become a four-lane highway with a center turn lane.***

# Rep. Roger Bush 2004 Session Outlook

## A report to the 2nd District taxpayers

### Rep. Bush's 2004 prime-sponsored bills

This year, I have introduced several bills to address concerns in our local communities.

#### ■ House Bill 2409 - Reimbursement on paid leave -

We've seen numerous cases where public employees are put on paid leave while being investigated for criminal misconduct. If they are found guilty, why should they be allowed to keep that pay while doing nothing for the taxpayers? This also dishonors their victims. It's time to end this free ride. My legislation would require public employees under investigation to reimburse the state for paid leave if they are found guilty.

#### ■ House Bill 2410 - Criminal disguise penalties -

This measure would increase penalties against people who wear disguises or try to hide their identities while committing a criminal act. This would include anyone from bank robbers to violent street protesters (remember WTO?).

#### ■ House Bill 2412 - Reducing vehicle noise -

In our neighborhoods, we have a right to expect peaceful surroundings. I have introduced two bills. One would provide penalties against those assaulting our ears with those huge boom box speakers in vehicles. The other would work to reduce nuisance noise from off-road vehicles being used on land zoned as residential within 250 feet of another property owners' residence.



Cut along this line

### It's YOUR turn! I want to hear from you!

I'd like your input! Tell me, what is it that REALLY matters to you? If you could list up to three legislative agenda items, what would they be? Jot them down below, cut out this section of the newsletter and mail it to me. My address is: **Rep. Roger Bush, P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600.**



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## State Representative **Roger Bush**

### **Committees:**

Capital Budget  
Rules  
Technology, Telecommunications  
& Energy  
Joint Select Committee on  
Veterans' & Military Affairs  
Joint Select Committee on  
Economic Development &  
International Affairs

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members/bush.htm](http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/bush.htm)

Dear Friends,

Protecting taxpayers, strengthening the economy, creating new jobs in the private sector, restoring vitality to our communities, ensuring safe neighborhoods, and helping our citizens. This is the focus of my work in the 2004 legislative session.

The scheduled 60-day session began in Olympia on Jan. 12, with the governor straying away from the sound fiscal principles we adopted last year as he called for \$158 million in new, unnecessary spending. The challenge we face during this short session is to avoid the temptation of increased spending that would put our state's budget back in the red once again.

Although the state's economy is now beginning to recover, we must continue to stay the course. This includes providing ways to create new jobs.

The outlook for the coming year is promising as long as we remain steady in our goals. This report provides an overview of these goals, priorities and more during the 2004 legislative session.

Please make sure you also fill out the response page inside and mail it back to me. I want to hear from you!

As your state legislator, I am here to help you as well as represent you. Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding issues involving you and state government.

Sincerely,



Roger Bush

State Representative • 2<sup>nd</sup> District

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